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20 die in Lagos bridge accident

Monday, 16 August 2010 03:50

Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos, with agency report



The accident which occurred early yesterday according to witnesses, was caused by policemen who mounted an illegal check point on the bridge and stopped a 14 seater passenger bus and were trying to extort money when a trailer which was on high speed hit the bus at the back and it immediately sparked a fire.

Lagos State police command spokesman, Frank Mba, said he could not ascertain the casualty figure because the police, state emergency service and FRSC men as at 6. 50 pm were still trying to pull out corpses from the burnt vehicles.

Mba said it was not right to say that the accident was caused by policemen on check point as the Lagos police had since banned road blocks but only conduct random checks.

He also said the command had launched an investigation into the remote cause of the accident, adding that it was after the investigation that the command would come out with a casualty figure.

"What caused the accident was a trailer that had break failure that hit a coaster bus and it immediately caught fire and affected 14 other vehicles. We are yet to identify the remote cause of the accident. As at now, we cannot say it was caused by an illegal check point on the bridge because when we got there we did not see a road block and nobody has come to say he or she saw a check point. But we have commenced investigation into the accident and we will make our report known", he said.

Zonal Coordinator of LASMA, Adebayo Temitope, also could not confirm the casualty figure but said well over 15 were injured.

But Area H Police Commander Mr Godwin Nwobodo, an Assistant Commissioner of Police, told newsmen at the scene that over 20 people were killed.

Witnesses also said the impact started a fire which burnt eight vehicles completely, four of them passenger buses.

"See wetin police have caused because of N50", Lateef Ajala, who said he witnessed the incident, told newsmen.

He added that 25 vehicles were involved in the accident, but a correspondent counted 19.

Ajala said the police had stopped some cars and buses on the bridge when a speeding trailer hit one of the vehicles from behind. The fire created panic among motorists who while trying to escape hit each other's cars, he said. One of the vehicles rested on the railing of the bridge.

Twenty people were burnt to death yesterday when a trailer lost control and hit vehicles at a police check point on a bridge at Berger area on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

COMMENTS

#1 **Ay** 2010-08-16 12:35

Oga Mba, your men are always under the bridge. I saw them on my way to camp this weekend.

Quote

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